

CLAIMS

1. An at least partially transparent container [10] for use as an aquarium, herbarium, terrarium, vivarium or the like, the container [10] being characterized therein that it constitutes a building unit which is adapted for
5 engaging complementarily shaped containers [10] so as to form a display arrangement; the container [10] further being characterised therein that it includes a substantially continuous interior surface defining a chamber for housing fish and/or plants and/or animal or insect matter and/or decorative or ornamental matter; radiused corner zones [20] between interior surfaces of
10 neighboring walls of the container [10]; and at least one sealable aperture extending through a wall of the container [10] for permitting access to the fish and/or plants and/or animal or insect matter and/or decorative or ornamental matter within the container [10] .
- 15 2. The container [10] according to claim 1 characterised therein that the container [10] is a substantially square or rectangular container [10] comprising two substantially parallel sidewalls [12], two opposing substantially parallel end walls [14], and two parallel walls defining a floor [16] and roof wall [18] respectively of the container [10].
- 20 3. The container [10] according to claim 1 characterised therein that the container [10] is a hollow, transparent glass brick dimensioned to engage similar glass bricks so as to form a display arrangement, such as a glass wall [19].

4. The container [10] according to claim 1 characterised therein that the container [10] includes a tight-fitting plug [24] for sealing the aperture, the plug [24] being manufactured from any one of cork, wood, rubber, glass or the like.

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5. An aquarium, herbarium, terrarium or vivarium comprising fish and/or plants and/or animal or insect matter and/or decorative or ornamental matter, the aquarium, herbarium, terrarium or vivarium being characterized therein that it is arranged within a hollow at least partially transparent container [10] which is characterised therein that it includes a substantially continuous interior surface and radiused corner zones [20] between interior surfaces of neighboring walls of the container [10]; and at least one aperture extending through a wall of the container for permitting access to the animal and/or plant and/or insect matter and/or fish and/or decorative, ornamental or the like matter within the container [10].

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6. A temporarily self-sustaining terrarium characterized therein that it is arranged within a hollow glass brick [10] which includes a substantially continuous interior surface and radiused corner zones [20] between interior surfaces of neighboring walls of the brick; and at least one aperture extending through a wall of the glass brick [10] or permitting access to contents within the brick; the terrarium further being characterised therein that it includes a first drainage layer comprising a mixture of approximately 50% charcoal and 50% river sand [26].

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7. The terrarium according to claim 6 characterised therein that it includes a second layer [28] for supporting plant material therein, the second layer comprising either a mixture of approximately 55% potting soil and 45% river sand for desert-type plants, or a mixture of approximately 80% potting soil and 20% peatmoss for forest-type plants.

8. A method of producing a temporarily self-sustaining terrarium that is arranged within an at least partially transparent container [10], the method comprising the steps of introducing a first drainage soil layer [26] comprising a mixture of approximately 50% charcoal and 50% river sand into the container [10] and leveling the drainage layer; introducing a second soil layer [28] comprising either a mixture of approximately 55% potting soil and 45% river sand for desert-type plants, or a mixture of approximately 80% potting soil and 20% peatmoss for forest-type plants into the container [10] and leveling the soil layer; sterilizing the soil mixtures by subjecting the container [10] to microwave treatment so as to remove potentially unwanted bacteria; sealing the container [10] and allowing the same to cool; introducing plant material into the container [10] and sealing the container [10] so as to create an ecosystem within which the plant material can grow in the absence of added oxygen or water.

9. A display arrangement comprising a series of containers [10], wherein each container [10] includes fish and/or plants and/or animal or insect matter and/or decorative or ornamental matter, and wherein each container [10] includes a substantially continuous interior surface and radiused corner zones [20] between interior surfaces of neighboring walls of the container [10]; and

at least one aperture extending through a wall of the container [10] for permitting access to contents within the container [10] .

- 5 10. A wall structure [19] comprising a series of containers [10], wherein each container [10] includes fish and/or plants and/or animal or insect matter and/or decorative or ornamental matter, and wherein each container [10] includes a substantially continuous interior surface and radiused corner zones between interior surfaces of neighboring walls of the container [10]; and at least one aperture extending through a wall of the container [10] for permitting access to contents within the container [10].
- 10 11. The wall structure [19] according to claim 10 characterised therein that the wall structure is a glass wall comprising a series of hollow glass bricks [10] wherein each brick includes fish and/or plants and/or animal or insect matter and/or decorative or ornamental matter.
- 15 12. Furniture incorporating therein one or more of an aquarium, herbarium, terrarium or vivarium comprising fish and/or plants and/or animal or insect matter and/or decorative or ornamental matter wherein the aquarium, herbarium, terrarium or vivarium is arranged within a hollow glass brick [10].
- 20 13. A container [10] substantially as herein illustrated and exemplified with reference to the accompanying drawings.
- 25 14. An aquarium, herbarium, terrarium or vivarium substantially as herein illustrated and exemplified with reference to the accompanying drawings.

15. A method of producing a temporarily self-sustaining terrarium that is arranged within an at least partially transparent container [10] substantially as herein illustrated and exemplified with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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16. A display arrangement comprising a series of containers [10] substantially as herein illustrated and exemplified with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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17. A wall structure substantially as herein illustrated and exemplified with reference to the accompanying drawings.

18. Furniture incorporating therein one or more of an aquarium, herbarium, terrarium or vivarium substantially as herein illustrated and exemplified with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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